

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: UNITARY WORKERS ASSEMBLY

1. SUMMARY. A WORKER ASSEMBLY ORGANIZED BY THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL WILL BE HELD APRIL 6-8. CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF FACTORY AND NEIGHBORHOOD UNITARY LABOR ORGANIZATIONS MAIN TOPIC. OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION EXPECTED INCLUDE DIVORCE REFERENDUM. ATTEMPT BY UNION CONFEDERATIONS TO CONTROL ASSEMBLY CRITICIZED BY BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT. FAR LEFT FEAR UNION CONTROL WILL STIFLE SPONTANEITY AND LEAD TOWARD THEIR ELIMINATION IN THE FACTORY. MORE CONSERVATIVE TRADE UNIONISTS FEAR UNION CONTROL EQUATES WITH CGIL DOMINATION. CISL MINORITY AND SOME UIL SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PLAN TO BOYCOTT MEETING. MEETING SHOULD DEMONSTRATE ABILITY NATIONAL UNIONS TO CONTROL UNITARY PROCESS. RESULT EXPECTED TO BE COMMITMENT TO EXPAND UNITARY STRUCTURES BUT NO GREAT LEAP FORWARD ANTICIPATED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL (CCU) FOLLOWING INITIATIVE OF INDUSTRIAL UNIONS HAS ORGANIZED A UNITARY WORKERS ASSEMBLY TO TAKE PLACE IN RIMINI ON APRIL 6-8. ASSEMBLY TO DEAL WITH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF LOCAL LEVEL UNITARY STRUCTURES (FACTORY AND ZONE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS) AS WELL AS OTHER TRADE UNION

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PROBLEMS. FACTORY COUNCILS REPRESENT ALL WORKERS - UNION AND

NON-UNION ALIKE - AND IN MANY CASES REPRESENTATIVES OF DELEGATES ARE ELECTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP. ZONE COUNCILS MAY INCLUDE REPRESENTATION FROM STUDENTS AND OTHER NON-TRADE UNION GROUPS. AROUND 3500 DELEGATES ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ASSEMBLY. OF THIS NUMBER 2400 WILL REPRESENT FACTORY AND ZONE COUNCILS, 600 WILL BE REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND 500 WILL COME FROM THE THREE NATIONAL UNIONS AS WELL AS VARIOUS CATEGORY UNIONS. LUCIANO LAMA, CGIL SEC GEN, WILL INITIATE PROCEEDINGS IN THE NAME OF THE FEDERATION CCU.

3. RIMINI ASSEMBLY TOUTED AS AN OCCASION TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FACTORY AND ZONE COUNCILS AND THE SO-CALLED "SUPER" FEDERATION HAS PREPARED A DOCUMENT OUTLINING PROCEDURES FOR FORMING UNITARY COUNCILS AND ELECTING DELEGATES TO RUN THEM. THE DOCUMENT IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO FOSTER MORE COMPLETE UNION CONTROL OVER THE SOMETIMES ILL-DISCIPLINED FACTORY ORGANIZATIONS. ALTHOUGH FORMAL BALLOTING ON THE DOCUMENT IS NOT TO TAKE PLACE, THE CONFEDERATIONS CLEARLY INTEND TO GET BROAD APPROVAL FOR THEIR PROPOSAL. THIS MAY HAPPEN, SINCE ASSEMBLY DELEGATES HAVE BEEN HAND PICKED BY PROVINCIAL UNION STRUCTURES. BUT THEY ARE CERTAIN ALSO TO GET AMPLY DISSENT FROM BOTH POLITICAL LEFT AND RIGHT. EXTRA PARLIAMENTARY LEFT INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANIZING FACTORY COUNCILS IN 1969 HOT AUTUMN PERIOD NOW FEAR UNION CONTROL THEIR SPONTANEOUS EXPERIMENTS. HEAVY CRITICISM OF ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS HAVE COME FROM THESE GROUPS AS WELL AS FROM METAL UNIONS WHICH CONCERNED THAT COMPROMISE WILL PREVENT STRONG COMMITMENT TO EXPANSION OF TYPE OF FACTORY STRUCTURE THEY CONSIDER DESIRABLE, I.E., UNITARY AND WITHOUT REGARD FOR THREE NATIONAL UNIONS.

4. MEANWHILE MORE TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS IN UNIONS CRITICAL OF RIMINI ASSEMBLY AND FEAR EXPANSION OF FACTORY COUNCIL SYSTEM IN WHICH UNION CONTROL MEANS CGIL DOMINATION. SOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN THE UIL MAY BOYCOTT PROCEEDINGS. OTHERS WILL FIGHT TO SECURE GUARANTEES FOR UNION MINORITIES (READ UIL). MORE SERIOUSLY, SIX CISL UNIONS LED BY EX-DEPUTY SEC GEN SCALIA WILL BOYCOTT THE ASSEMBLY. THEY CONSIDER IT ILLEGITIMATE SINCE IT IS ORGANIZED BY THE FEDERATION CCU. SCALIA, WHO CLAIMS THAT STORTI (POSSIBLY PRESSURED BY METAL UNION) MASTERMINDED ASSEMBLY, AGREES WITH POLITICAL LEFT THAT ASSEMBLY IS CON-

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TROLLED AND THAT FREE PARTICIPATION WILL BE STIFLED. FOR SCALIA WORST ASPECT OF ASSEMBLY IS ITS MARXIST CLASS CHARACTER AND POSSIBILITY THAT ASSEMBLY WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A FOURTH LABOR CONFEDERATION. HE FEELS THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS MAY NEVER LEGALLY DISSOLVE, BUT FACTORY LEVEL UNITY COULD RESULT IN A WITHERING AWAY OF TRADITIONAL UNION STRUCTURES. NOT ALL IN MINORITY UNIONS AGREE WITH SCALIA VIEW AND SOME WILL ATTEND ASSEMBLY.

5. IT INTERESTING TO NOTE DC REACTION TO RIMINI. FORZE NUOVE FACTION LEADER DONAT CATTIN HAS SUGGESTED THAT DC SEND A DELEGATION TO RIMINI BUT PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI CONSIDERED IDEA ILL ADVISED IN LIGHT OF CISL'S "CURRENT PROBLEMS." WHILE KEEPING HANDS OFF, DC WILL HOWEVER SEND OBSERVERS.

6. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO DIVISIVE FACTORY UNITY ISSUE RIMINI ASSEMBLY LIKELY TO DISCUSS OTHER CONTROVERSIAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING TRADE UNION ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM. ALL IN ALL, THIS CONFERENCE, INTENDED AS EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE UNITARY PROCESS, WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES ARE STILL EVIDENT IN ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT. IT WILL BE WORTHWHILE TO NOTE EXTENT TO WHICH CONFEDERATIONS ABLE TO MANIPULATE PROCEEDINGS. IN ANY CASE RIMINI BY ITSELF NOT EXPECTED TO BE SUFFICIENT TO SPEED UP PROCESS OF LABOR UNITY. THAT STILL DEPENDS TO POLITICAL WILL. VOLPE

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